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s/ Jan Hostasa  
Jan Hostasa

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Erik K. Jurvis  
Serial No. : 09/873,144  
Filed : June 1, 2001  
Title : SIDING SYSTEM COMPONENT AND RELATED METHOD  
Attorney Docket : 25039A  
Examiner : Y. Horton  
Art Unit : 3635

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Box AF  
Washington, D.C. 20231

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Sir:

AMENDMENT

This paper is being filed in response to the Final Office Action mailed September 17, 2002. Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendment below, as Applicants believe it places the case in condition for allowance. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of the amendments and remarks below.

In The Claims

Please cancel claims 5 and 14.

Please amend claims 1, 11 and 17 as follows:

1. A component for receiving a plurality of horizontally extending siding strips in a siding system for covering a substantially flat or planar wall of a building or dwelling, comprising:

an elongated body for abutting against the substantially planar wall, said body